

The National Tribune

A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of the Soldiers and Sailors of the late war, and all Pensioners of the United States.

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Andersonville.

No name in history so full of horrors as this—no place so cursed with baleful memories—literally and absolutely a “hell upon earth.”

The wretched history of this den of iniquity never fails to stir the blood of any man of any locality who hates cruelty and abhors tyranny. Crowded into narrow and noisome limits, with



Private FRANCIS W. BEEDLE,
Co. M, 8th Michigan Cavalry.

Was admitted per Steamer New York, from Richmond, Va., May 2, 1864. Died May 3, 1864, from the effects of treatment while in the hands of the enemy.

out bread enough to eat or water enough to drink, with no means of personal cleanliness, no space for retirement, no escape from constant contact with all uncleanness, no pure air to breathe, no room for exercise, sleeping and waking in foul atmosphere engendering disease, with no sufficient medical treatment, no hospital facilities, thousands of brave soldiers of the republic



Private JOHN BREINIG,
Co. G, 4th Kentucky Cavalry.

Admitted April 18, 1864. Improved a little for two weeks, then gradually failed and died on the 12th instant.

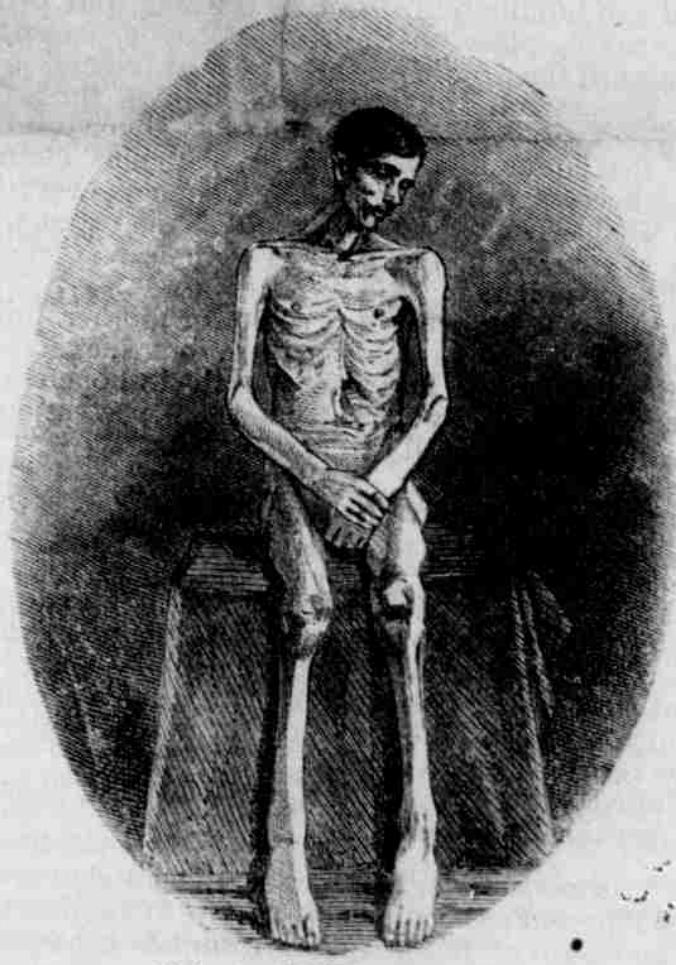
lie, men with fathers, mothers, wives and daughters at home were forced into this horrible pen, held there by guards and shotted batteries till they rotted away by thousands—and even in their very death slew their own comrades and friends by contagion of the same disease.

Constitutions the strongest gave way, nerves

that never trembled before were utterly shattered, will and courage once indomitable shriveled under the curse, brains full of thought went wild, and not a few deliberately marched up to the fatal “dead line,” accepted the inevitable shot from the ready guard, and escaped Andersonville by the sole gate left open, that of death.

Who that saw the poor wrecks that came back on exchange from this Golgotha does not remember the thrill of mingled pity, horror and indignation as they saw these living ghosts—victims of the torment so long endured. We reproduce in this issue, from the original and authentic engravings, the pictures of some of these most unhappy men, and give some extracts worth reading at all times of the spirit of the brutal barbarians who had charge of this accused spot.

And yet, can it be believed by the surviving soldiers that the demon of red tape has so utterly taken possession of our Pension Office, that with knowledge of all these facts, pensions are



Private JOHN Q. ROSE,
Co. C, 8th Kentucky Volunteers.

Admitted per Steamer New York, from Richmond, Va., May 2, 1864. Died May 4, 1864, from effects of treatment while in the hands of the enemy.

denied to men long prisoners in Andersonville—whose discharges show on their face that the cause of discharge was “physical and mental disability resulting from ill-treatment at Andersonville,” because they cannot produce testimony of some officer or comrades who shared the same imprisonment and bore the same sufferings, to inform the Commissioner how they incurred disease, what the symptoms and technical name was, and how and when they were treated in the rebel and other hospitals.

Men came home skeletons and gibbering—muscle, force, brain, and will all gone from the horrors of their prison house, with no strength to fight longer or labor longer, with reason shattered and memory dethroned, no longer soldiers or fit for soldiers, discharged and sent home by the proper officers because of these known disabilities, the cause assigned for the disability, as well known as any fact in history, and red tape says: “No, we won’t pension you, because you don’t or can’t comply with our notions of testimony. We know by the record that you were

a prisoner at Andersonville for months. We know what Andersonville was. We know you were discharged, that is on record. We know the cause of your discharge, that is also on record. We know by satisfactory proof that from the day of your discharge till now you have never had a well day; but we, of the Pension Bureau, have made a rule, which the law does not require, that you must produce some offi-



Private GEORGE H. WIBLE,
Co. F, 9th Maryland Volunteers.

Was admitted from the Flag-of-truce boat April 18, 1864. Is slowly improving.

cer or comrades in that place of torment who shall tell us over again in writing all this which we knew before in stronger characters than any new witness can give it.”

What miserable slavery to routine; what wretched incapacity to render justice is this; and, above all, what a frustration of the loving kindness of the Nation!



Private EDWARD CUNNINGHAM,
Co. E, 7th Ohio Cavalry.

Was admitted from Flag-of-truce boat April 18, 1864. Very little change in his condition since received.

If there was the shadow of a possibility of mistake, if there was the remotest chance of fraudulent representation, there might be something in it. But the man’s identity is undeniable, his story is known to be true, horribly true, no single necessary fact is or can be in doubt, but his claim is refused at the Pension Office.